



NEWTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

RUTHANNE FULLER– EX OFFICIO	
Newton School Committee Members	
WARD	
I	Bridget Ray-Canada
II	Margaret Albright
III	Anping Shen
IV	Diana Fisher Gomberg
V	Steven Siegel, Vice-Chair
VI	Ruth Goldman, Chair
VII	Kathy Shields
VIII	Matthew Miller

DRAFT Minutes

- Date** December 10, 2018
- Location** Education Center, 100 Walnut St., Rm 304 and Rm 210, Newton, MA 02460
- Meeting Called by** Chair Goldman at 6:00pm in rm 210 for the purpose of voting to enter into Executive Session in rm 304 to discuss strategy related to Collective Bargaining with the NTA and an update on the OML violation filed by Rep. Howitt. The School Committee will reconvene in open session.
- Members Present:** Ray-Canada, Albright, Shen, Fisher Gomberg, Siegel, Goldman, Shields, Miller, Fleishman, Mayor
- Students Present:** Maya Mathews, Nayleth Lopez Lopez, Serena Jampel, Cristian Gaines, Ross Halpern, Lucy Chae
- Staff Present:** **Liam Hurley**, Assistant Superintendent/Chief Financial and Administrative Officer, **Toby Romer**, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education, **Mary Eich**, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, **Karen Shmukler**, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, **Heather Richards**, Executive Director of Human Resources

Chair Goldman moved for the School Committee to enter into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to negotiations with Newton Teacher’s Association (NTA). Chair Goldman called for a roll call vote. All in favor of entering into Executive Session for this purpose:

ROLL CALL:

Ray – Canada	Y	Shen	Y	Goldman	Y	Shields	Y	Mayor	Y
Albright	Y	Fisher Gomberg	Y	Siegel	Y	Miller	Y		

The vote was unanimous to convene in Executive Session. The Committee reconvened in regular session at -----pm

Superintendent’s Report (Introduce Jingshan Students)

Dr. Fleishman gave a brief history of the Jingshan Exchange program with Newton that dates back to 1986, and is one of the oldest exchange programs in the country. He spoke about his visit to the Jingshan School in 2015. Dr. Fleishmann introduced Samantha Mandel, Global Education Program Coordinator and Allison Mulligan, World Language Coordinator and Chair of the Jingshan Board of Directors. The Jingshan students introduced themselves to the Committee and presented Dr. Fleishman and Ruth Goldman with a gift.

Public Comment

(The Committee is not required to hear from every person, but it is required to hear every topic. Newton citizens have preference. Maximum of 30 minutes, three minutes per person, no sharing of time and please be respectful of those in the room).

Carolyn Lattin, Newton – She is part of School Connections, which is part of Green Newton. Recycling and composting is doing well, but has no permanent coordinator. She asked that NPS seriously consider hiring a sustainability coordinator. She submitted 139 letters from concerned citizens who would also like to see a sustainability coordinator hired.

William King, Newton – He is the dad of a recovering opioid addict. He represents survivors. He believes that due to lack of notification, these worthwhile programs died. He is asking that the city properly notify parents of the programs that are available.

Andrew Thompson, Newton – He is a NSHS sustainability teacher. He too, is requesting that NPS fund a sustainability coordinator.

High School Principals Update

Document: [High School Schedule and Start Time Presentation](#)

Ruth explained that the Committee and NPS agreed that in order to look at a later high school start time the high schools had to revise the high school schedule. This schedule redesign group has given updates to the Committee throughout the process.

Toby Romer commented that although there were other great things going on at the high schools, such as the 1:1 computer program, student interventions and SEL, they will share that at a later date. Then Toby, along with principals Joel Stembridge and Henry Turner presented the High School Schedule Redesign and Start Time Update. They each explained details of the groups work to date, including visits to other districts to see different types of schedules in action. They came up with three proposed schedule that all include the use of "flex blocks," with variations in long/short blocks and days in rotation. These three sample schedules all allow for a less frenetic/hectic school day, they maximize instructional time with less transitions, includes daily flex time and increases the frequency of longer block periods. A chart was provided that illustrated the averages of length of day, traditional class time, flex time, daily learning time and optional time and compared these averages to those of the current schedule and comparable districts averages. They explained that next steps include:

- Additional feedback and adjustments to the schedule proposals
- Schedule Redesign Committee will make a recommendation of final proposal
- Collective bargaining
- Professional development and curricular planning to support implementation in Fall 2020

They went on to explain the next steps needed for a Start Time Shift:

- Transportation consultation
- Share new k-12 start time/bus options and budget impact Spring 2019
- Community feedback on new options
- Target start time /transportation changes in September 2020.

Questions, answers and discussion followed.

MCAS Update

Document: [MCAS Report](#)
[MCAS PowerPoint](#)

Katy Hogue and Mary Eich presented an update of spring 2018 MCAS results. They briefly explained that the new statewide system was introduced in 2018 and there were some changes to accountability:

- Spring 2017 results were a baseline and used to set targets for 2018
- Targets for 2019 will be forthcoming from the state.
- New indicators include:
 - High school extended engagement
 - Progress towards attaining English language proficiency
 - Chronic absenteeism
 - Completion of advanced coursework in high school
- Includes new subgroup: lowest performing students
- Accountability categories instead of levels
- Districts classified on district level data (no longer based on lowest school)
- Average Student Growth Percentile (SGP) now reported instead of median.

Overall the results tell us that:

- Average student performance continues to be high compared to the state
 - Most students performing well
 - Overall Mathematics, English Language Arts and Grade 9 Physics curricula are well-aligned to MA DESE standards based on district-level performance
 - We still have significant achievement gaps
 - High school subgroup achievement gaps are relatively narrow
- Questions, answers and discussion followed.

Elementary Math - Preview

Dr. Fleishman reported that at the next school committee meeting the Eva Thompson, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education would present the Elementary Principals update. Briefly outlined what he will ask Eva and the principals to focus on and then asked the Committee if there was anything in particular they would like to hear about.

Facilities Update (includes Solar Panels and LE/NECP Programming)

Document: [Facilities Report](#)

Liam Hurley introduced Bill Ferguson, C-Director of Sustainability. He along with two solar developers is asking the School Committee to give permission for car canopies at seven additional schools. They explained the climate action plan, and the 20 year financing.

Questions, answers and discussion were followed by a motion to approve the canopies.

Motion: Shen

Second: Fisher Gomberg

Vote: 9-0-0 to approve the canopies at 7 additional schools.

Liam Hurley briefly updated the Committee on:

- Cabot and Lincoln-Eliot/NECP projects
- Cabot and Horace Mann School moves
- MSBA Accelerated Repair Program (ARP) for Day and Bigelow boilers
- Lincoln-Eliot Hearing and Building envelope
- Carr Building A/C

Questions, answers and discussion followed.

Fiscal and Operational Update

Document: [Fiscal and Operational Report](#)

Liam Hurley explained that as of November 30, 2018 had spent 37% of its FY19 budget (\$83.3 million). The current financial forecast projects a positive balance of \$722,000. He then briefly summarized some of the highlights from the current forecast.

Questions, answers and discussion followed.

Vote: Lincoln-Eliot (LE) and Newton Early Childhood Program (NECP) Educational Programming Space

Document: [LE & NECP Programming Space Presentation](#)

Chair Goldman asked for a motion to approve recommendations for program requirements for LE/NECP (# of classrooms/sq. footage)

Motion: Ray-Canada

Second: Fisher Gomberg

Vote: 9-0-0 to approve recommendations for program requirements for LE/NECP.

Vote: Buffer Zone (Burr/Williams & Angier/Williams)

Document: [Buffer Zone Memo](#)

Chair Goldman asked for a motion to approve the reinstatement of the Burr-Williams buffer zone .

Motion: Siegel

Second: Shen

Vote: 9-0-0 to reinstate the Burr/Williams Buffer Zone as recommended.

Vote: 2019-2020 School Calendar

Document: [2019-2020 School Calendar](#)

Chair Goldman asked for a motion to approve the 2019 -2020 School Calendar.

Motion: Fisher Gomberg

Second: Ray-Canada

Vote: 9-0-0 to approve the 2019 – 2020 School Calendar

Vote: Approve Zervas 1-Day Liquor License

Document: [Zervas 1-Day Liquor License](#)

Chair Goldman asked for a motion to approve the Zervas PTO 1-Day Liquor license for their annual fundraiser on April 27, 2019.

Motion: Shields

Second: Albright

Vote: 9-0-0 to approve the Zervas 1-day liquor license.

Vote: Payroll, Contract and Warrants Authorization

Document: [Payroll/Contract/Warrant Authorization](#)

Chair Goldman asked for a motion to approve Payroll, Contracts and Warrants authorizations as described.

Motion: Fisher Gomberg

Second: Miller

Vote: 9-0-0 to approve

It was brought to the Chair's attention that two separate votes were required one for the Payroll and Contracts (School Committee signators) and the other for Accounts Payable Warrants (Mayor as signator).

Chair Goldman asked for a motion to authorize the Mayor to approve accounts payable warrants.

Motion to authorize Goldman and Albright to sign Payrolls and Contracts

Motion: Shen

Second: Ray-Canada

Vote: 9-0-0 to approve the Mayor to sign account payable warrants.

Vote: SC Appointee Asa Hopkins to the Energy Commission

Document: [Asa Hopkins Resume](#)

Chair Goldman briefly outlined Asa Hopkins background and asked for a motion to approve him as the School Committee representative to the Energy Commission.

Motion: Fisher Gomberg

Second: Shen

Vote: 9-0-0 to approve Asa Hopkins as the School Committee representative to the Energy Commission.

Vote: Approve Pay Increases for:

1) Non-Aligned Personnel: Assistant Superintendents, Executive Directors - Human Resources and Community Education; Directors: Facilities, Program Accountability and Inclusion, Finance, Business and Planning and Career and Technical Education; Assistant Directors – Human Resource; Managers – Human Resources, Student Services, Facilities, Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) and SEL District Leader; Generalists –Human Resources; Confidential Executive Assistants; Executive Assistants; Administrative Assistants; Attorneys, Analysts – Business

Document: [Non-Aligned Personnel Pay Increase Memo](#)

Chair Goldman asked for a motion to approve the 3% pay increase for non-aligned personnel listed. Ruth explained that typically the increase follows the increase negotiated by the unions.

Motion: Siegal

Second: Shen

Vote: 9-0-0 to approve 3% salary increase for non-aligned personnel listed.

Vote: Approve Superintendent Salary Increase:

Chair Goldman asked for a motion to approve the FY19 salary increase for Superintendent Fleishman.

Document: [FY19 Superintendent Salary Increase](#)

Chair Goldman asked for a motion to approve the 3% pay increase for Superintendent Fleishman. Ruth explained that typically the increase follows the increase negotiated by the unions and also approved for non-aligned personnel.

Motion: Siegal

Second: Ray-Canada

Vote: 9-0-0 to approve the Superintendent's FY19, 3% salary increase.

Communications

Adjourned: 10:00 pm

Lisa A. Mazzola

Date: _____

Lisa A. Mazzola

School Committee Secretary